

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 /073 W

-----241549Z 070607 /43

R 240346Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6612

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1816

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION

SUMMARY: RECENTLY COMPLETED MEETING OF
MALAYSIA'S ASIAN CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
CONFIRMS A MORE RIGHTIST ORIENTATION OF GOM FOREIGN
POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. MALAYSIA'S EBULLIENT AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF
KOREA, JACK DE SILVA, GAVE ME A RUNDOWN OF A RECENTLY
COMPLETED MEETING OF MALAYSIA'S ASIAN CHIEF OF MISSION
HELD HERE LAST WEEK. DURING FIVE-DAY SESSION AMBASSADORS
HEARD STATEMENTS FROM PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTERS OF
INTERIOR, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, PRIMARY PRODUCTS AND
DISCUSSED RANGE OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

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VOCIFEROUSLY ANTI-COMMUNIST HIMSELF, DE SILVA WAS PLEASED
WITH THE MEETING WHICH HE THOUGHT REFLECTED A MOVEMENT
AWAY FROM WHAT HE CALLED WISHY-WASHY NONALIGNMENT TO A
MORE REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF MALAYSIA'S TRUE INTERESTS.

2. PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN HAD OUTLINED IN HIS OPENING
STATEMENT TRADITIONAL FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES, --

NONALIGNMENT, ASEAN SOLIDARITY, CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE ISLAMIC STATES AND SUPPORT OF THE ARAB POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE HAD ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET POLICY AND COMMUNIST ROLE IN SUPPORT OF INSURGENCY IN MALAYSIA. GOM WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD OUT HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO STATES IN INDOCHINA, BUT IT WAS TOO SOON TO BE ABLE TO JUDGE WHETHER THIS READINESS TO COOPERATE AND LIVE PEACEFULLY TOGETHER WOULD BE RECIPROCATED. MALAYSIA MUST NOT LET DOWN ITS GUARD. DE SILVA SAID BOTH TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF PM'S REMARKS SHOWED THE PRIME MINISTER LESS DISPOSED THAN HIS PREDECESSOR TO GIVE COMMUNIST WORLD BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

3. IN CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS, DE SILVA, JOINED BY AMBASSADOR ZAINAL ABIDIN SULONG (INDONESIA) AND HIGH COMMISSIONER ISMAIL AMBIA (BANGLADESH) TOOK THE LEAD IN ADVOCATING A MORE RIGOROUS EXAMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES IN THE LIGHT OF MALAYSIAN INTERESTS, AND A MOVE AWAY FROM AUTOMATIC ENDORSEMENT OF THIRD WORLD POSITIONS. HE ARGUED THAT NONALIGNMENT AND EQUIDISTANCE WERE SOUND PRINCIPLES, BUT THAT NORTH KOREA AND SOUTH KOREA WERE NOT EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO MALAYSIA, AND MALAYSIA WAS NOT IN TRADE, CULTURE, POLITICAL OUTLOOK (TO CITE ONLY A FEW AREAS) EQUIDISTANT FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES. THESE REALITIES SHOULD BE GIVEN GREATER WEIGHT IN DETERMINING GOM POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

4. COMMENT: DE SILVA'S COMMENTS SUPPORT OUR VIEW THAT THERE HAS BEEN UNDER HUSSEIN A MOVEMENT FROM A POSITION
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SLIGHTLY LEFT OF CENTER IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION, TO ONE SLIGHTLY RIGHT OF CENTER. THIS CHANGE WILL BEAR PRINCIPALLY ON POLITICAL ISSUES, AND LESS ON NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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